

Access Without Limits

GUIDANCE



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD
(DoE)/JOINT AWARD INITIATIVE (JAI)
**ACCESS WITHOUT LIMITS: SUPPORT FOR
COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS**



**ACCESS
WITHOUT
LIMITS**

JULIA RAUSING
— TRUST —

Fund

OVERVIEW



As young people face up to today's challenges, we know the Award has never been needed more.

In line with our strategy, Youth Without Limits, we are committed to ensuring that The Award is open to all young people and that our participants reflect the most diverse generation of young people ever.

To break down barriers to participation, we are offering funding to Voluntary and Community Organisations (VCOs) to establish a sustainable Award offer, through support from the Julia Rausing Trust.

This funding is now open for applications. With the generous support of our donors, the fund offers grant funding of up to £10,250 for eligible voluntary and community organisations to set up and deliver the Award, including the enrolment costs for marginalised young people across the UK.

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ACCESS WITHOUT LIMITS:
SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

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Who does this fund support?



This fund will support VCO organisations that meet the following eligibility criteria:

- The organisation must have a track record of primarily working with marginalised young people.
Please see our web page for full details of the criteria:
www.dofe.org/access-without-limits/community/ni.
- Organisations/groups must be an incorporated Voluntary, Community or Social Enterprise (VCO) Organisation, that has been established for at least one year. Examples include Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIO) and Charitable Companies Limited by Guarantee.
- Organisations must have a bank account in the organisation's name, with two or more unrelated signatories and any reserves accrued by organisations are reinvested to support your work (i.e. not for profit). You will also need to be able to provide copies of your most recent annual accounts.







- Applicants must be able to meet the requirements of a Licensed Organisation (LO) and will be required to sign a Directly Licensed Centre (DLC) agreement or be part of an operating authority (OA) licence.
- Each organisation will require a designated Licence signatory and Award Manager, both will receive dedicated support from an Operations Officer to help them get the programme up and running with support every step of the way.
- Please note that as a part of the process, organisations will need to undergo a due diligence check and will be asked to produce documentation, including safeguarding policies and profit and loss accounts.

For full details of eligibility criteria, please visit our funding page: [Access Without Limits – Community Funding in Northern Ireland - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award \(dofe.org\)](http://www.dofe.org/access-without-limits/community/ni) or contact georgina.harper@dofe.org.



What does this fund support?



Eligible voluntary and community organisations can apply for up to £10,250. Our Operations Teams will support you to develop your project and develop a proposal for what the funds will be used for. Examples of what could be included in the funding packages are:

-  A contribution to the DofE/JAI Licence Fee.
-  Funded Participation Places for young people to enrol on to the Award.
-  Bursaries for adult leader training courses – this could be for sectional activities, first aid, safeguarding or qualifications related to the outdoors.
-  A bursary for an Approved Activity Provider (AAP) to run the Expedition section for Award participants.
-  Equipment that supports the sections of the Award (Expedition, Physical, Skills or Volunteering).
-  Internal Staff Cost. This can be up to a maximum of one third of the available funding. The costs should be reasonable and offer good value for money.

Additional detail of what can be included can be found in our grant making guidance and appendix 1 of this document.



Key dates

-  The fund **opened** for applications in July 2022
-  The fund will **close** to applications on the 31st of January 2026.



Step 1

Contact your Operations Officer at the NI Country Office to find out more.

Step 2

If you are eligible, complete the DofE Licence Due Diligence process.

Step 3

Once the Due Diligence process is complete, apply for a DofE/JAI Licence.

Step 4

Once you have a licence, fill in the grant application form with the support of your Operations Officer.

Step 5

Submit your application form using the guidance document, which your Operations Officer will supply. You will also need to read and confirm you agree to the DofE's Terms and Conditions.

Step 6

Your application will be reviewed, and you will receive an email from your Operations Officer confirming whether it has been successful or not.

Step 7

If successful, use your grant in line with the agreement, making sure you keep copies of all receipts/invoices.

Step 8

Complete an interim and end of year report by the dates stated on your application form.

Reporting requirements

The reports will ask how your organisation has used the grant to support young people from marginalised backgrounds to do their Award and the impact this has had. We will also ask for a financial report, for which you will need to supply copies of receipts and invoices.

Further support:

Please contact your Operations Officer or Georgina Harper, VCO Programmes Manager (Georgina.harper@dofe.org) for further guidance or support.

Licence fee Support

- Organisations can receive 100% of their licence fee in year 1, and 50% in year 2.

Participation Places:

- Bronze, Silver and Gold participation places
- Organisations are encouraged to support at least 15 young people per year, but there isn't an upper limit on the number of Participation Places a Licenced Organisation (LO) can apply for.

Participant Bursaries:

- One-off Approved Activity Provider (AAP) costs relating to the Expedition and/or Residential sections (up to £200 per participant).
- Campsite, bunkhouse, or similar fees up to a maximum of £15 per night per participant for the duration of their Expedition.
- Food for the expedition section, up to a maximum of £15 per 24-hour period. If an extra meal is required beyond the 24 hours, this is capped at £5.
- Participant travel to/from their Expedition and/or Residential sections. Eligible costs would include a) train, bus, or taxi fares; b) mileage rates (own vehicle) at 45p/mile.

Training Bursaries for DofE leaders:

- Limited to training for adult leaders assigned to the licenced organisation on eDofE.
- Training courses should relate to your DofE delivery (contact your local Operations officer to discuss what training you can include).

Sectional and Expedition equipment:

- Can be used to cover reusable equipment that is retained by the organisation and relates to sectional and expedition activities, with the following provisos:
 - Up to £200 can be used to purchase expedition equipment for DofE leaders (these items should be retained by the LO), all other items are to be used by the young people participating in the Award.
 - Equipment is in line with DofE's programme requirements. Those applying for funding should check the [Expedition Kit List](#) and [Programme Ideas](#).

Funding for Licenced Organisation Incidentals:

Licenced Organisation delivery support:

- Adult leader and volunteer expenses for all sections, where required for delivery of DofE activities.
 - Travel:** Eligible costs would include a) train, bus, or taxi fares; b) mileage rates (own vehicle) at 45p/mile
 - Food:** up to £15 per 24-hour period, limited to the expedition period.
 - Accommodation:** up to £15/night, limited to the expedition period.
- LO costs associated with delivery, to include equipment maintenance costs, printing, and hire of facilities.

Licenced Organisation (LO) Salary Costs:

- Salary costs for permanent, fixed term or sessional staff members delivering the DofE on behalf of the Directly Licenced Centre or Centre under an Operating Authority.
- Salary costs should be at a competitive rate, and above minimum wage.
- Maximum amount of 33% of overall grant and must be tapered to build sustainability if a multi-year grant.

Celebration Events:

- Licenced organisations can use the funding to offer a celebration event for those young people that have completed their award, up to a maximum of £200 per Licenced Organisation per year.

Group transport to an expedition:

- Group and Adult leader transport to an expedition (up to £500 per funded year, please note this cap includes any transport costs listed under participant bursaries and adult leader expenses)
- Eligible costs would include a) minibus hire; b) mileage rates (hired vehicle) at £0.15/mile; c) mileage rates (own vehicle) at 45p/mile, d) bus or train fares.

The Award in

NORTHERN IRELAND



In Northern Ireland, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award has a Joint Award Agreement with The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award and Gaisce – The President's Award, which enables participants to choose how they wish to be recognised for their achievement. They can choose a Duke of Edinburgh's Award, a Gaisce – The President's Award, or a Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Certificate on completion of their programme.

At Gold level young people also have a choice of venue for their Gold Award celebration event, including Dublin for those young people who wish to receive their Award from The President of Ireland, and in London, Edinburgh, or Northern Ireland where Gold Award celebration events are held in the presence of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

This unique agreement was signed in 1999, following the Good Friday Agreement the previous year. The Joint Award Initiative therefore celebrates its 25th Anniversary year in 2024.

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For more information about the DofE and the Joint Award Initiative in Northern Ireland, visit DofE.org and theawardni.org.



The Joint Award Initiative in numbers

April 2023 - March 2024



6,124

Young people started
their Award journey

10,242

Young people actively
doing their Award

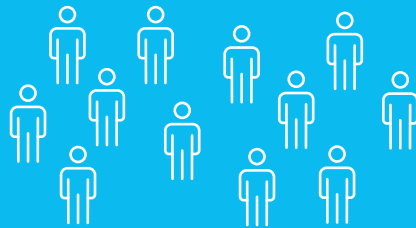


107,341

Total volunteering hours
given by young people

14.3%

Of 14 year olds in
Northern Ireland
started their
Bronze Award



Awards started
by young people
facing marginalisation



656 (10.7%)

Experiencing poverty



371 (6.1%)

From minority ethnic backgrounds



388 (6.3%)

Have additional needs



£566,760

Estimated total value of
volunteering hours given
in support of others



925

Leaders and
volunteers delivering
Award programmes



37

Licensed Organisations
actively delivering
the Award

Awards started



Bronze 3,569



Silver 1,646



Gold 909



2,918

Awards achieved